

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 191015Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8244
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PFOR PL
SUBJ: POLISH PRESS COMMENTARY ON PYJAS DEATH

REF: (A) WARSAW 3533, (B) WARSAW 3545, (C) WARSAW 3260

1. THE CHIEF EDITOR OF ZYCIE WARSZAWY STRONGLY ATTACKED MEMBERS OF THE WORKERS' DEFENSE LEAGUE IN A MAJOR EDITORIAL ENTITLED "TRUTH ABOUT A PROVOCATION" WHICH APPEARED ON MAY 18. ROLINSKI ACCUSED JACEK KURON, ADAM MICHNIK, ANTONI MACIEREWICZ, JAN LIPSKI, AND SEWERYN BLUMSZTAJN OF EXPLOITING THE "JUVENALIA" STUDENT FESTIVAL IN KRAKOW TO SPREAD ANTI-POLISH LIES BASED ON THE TRUMPED-UP STORY THAT STANISLAW PYJAS WAS MURDERED BY SECURITY FORCES.

2. ROLINSKI SAYS THE WDL MEMBERS WORKED CLOSELY TO SUPPLY "ANTI-
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POLISH DIVERSIONARY CENTERS" WITH "PSEUDO-INFORMATION AND PSEUDO-ARGUMENTS" ABOUT THE PYJAS AFFAIR. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONS A STATEMENT SENT BY KURON TO THE LONDON-PUBLISHED JOURNAL "ANEKS" ON MAY 10 AND THE "SLANDEROUS CAMPAIGN" OF RFE BASED ON "FALSE DECLARATIONS" SUPPLIED TO WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS IN POLAND. ROLINSKI ADDED THAT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PROVOCATEURS ACTED ON ORDERS FROM ABROAD IS NOT EXCLUDED. HE MADE THE FIRST

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT KURON, MICHNIK, AND LIPSKI ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION UNDER ARTICLE 132 OF THE POLISH PENAL CODE (REF C).

3. ROLINSKI REPORTS THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF PYJAS'S DEATH, WHICH HE DESCRIBES AS A SORDID MATTER WHICH THE PRESS WOULD NOT HAVE PUBLISHED OUT OF RESPECT FOR PYJAS'S FAMILY AND A GENERAL POLICY AGAINST "CHEAP SENSATIONALISM" WERE IT NOT FOR THE PROVOCATION OF THE WORKERS' DEFENSE LEAGUE. HE ARGUES THAT WDL MEMBERS ENGAGED IN SIMILAR ANTI-POLISH ACTIVITIES IN 1968 AND 1976 AND CONCLUDES THAT THE TASKS FACING POLAND AND THE WORLD ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE AFFECTED BY THE VAIN ATTEMPTS OF THESE "POLITICAL GAMBLERS."

4. BEFORE THE ROLINSKI ARTICLE, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COMMENTARY ON THE PYJAS DEATH WAS AN ITEM IN THE KRAKOW DAILY "GAZETA POLUDNIOWA" OF MAY 16, WHICH REPORTED THAT "SOME PEOPLE" MADE A CYNICAL ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT BOTH THE JUVENALIA AND THE DEATH OF A YOUNG MAN FOR POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. THE ARTICLE ARGUED THAT NO ONE REMEMBERED ANOTHER STUDENT WHO DIED ON THE EVE OF JUVENALIA IN A CAR CRASH AND CONCLUDED WITH THE QUESTION, "IS ANY FURTHER COMMENT NECESSARY?"

DAVIES

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